

**CLAIMS**

1. A security protocol exchange in which at least some of the protocol PDUs are passed  
5 between the parties operating the protocol in the form of electronic documents formatted  
according to a self-describing markup language.
2. A security protocol exchange according to claim 1, wherein said markup language is XML,  
at least one said electronic document being an XML document including a Document Type  
10 Declaration describing the PDU structure.
3. A networked device including a security entity logically positioned between an application  
and a transport entity, the security entity having: an associated generator and interpreter of  
documents expressing security protocol PDUs in terms of a self-describing markup language.  
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4. A device according to claim 3, wherein said markup language is XML.
5. A device according to claim 3, wherein the transport entity is arranged to transport the  
XML documents using HTTP.  
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6. A device according to claim 3, wherein the transport entity is arranged to transport the  
XML documents in e-mails.